

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A filter system for use with an aquarium and a protein skimmer, the filter system comprising:

a housing comprising a pre-filter chamber having a pre-filter configured to collect and filter water from the aquarium and the protein skimmer; and

a sump chamber, wherein water is directed from the pre-filter chamber to the sump chamber, and wherein a portion of the water flowing through the sump chamber is directed to the protein skimmer.

2. The filter system of Claim 1, wherein the sump chamber comprises a diverter.

3. The filter system of Claim 2, wherein diverter comprises a trough.

4. The filter system of Claim 3, wherein the trough is formed by two molded vertically inwardly extending partitions formed in the sides of said housing, said partitions dividing the interior of the housing into the pre-filter chamber and the sump chamber.

5. The filter system of Claim 1, further comprising a pump for pumping water from the filter system to the aquarium.

6. A filter system for use in an aquarium comprising:

a biological chamber for holding biological media, said biological chamber comprising at least one drip drawer having a plurality of bores therein to distribute water substantially evenly over the biological media.

7. The filter system of Claim 6, wherein the biological chamber comprises at least two drip drawers.

8. The filter system of Claim 6, wherein the biological chamber comprises at least one drip drawer holder for supporting the at least one drip drawer.

9. The filter system of Claim 8, wherein the drip drawer holder is removably supported on ledges in the biological chamber.

10. The filter system of Claim 6, wherein the drip drawer comprises a media filter pad.

11. The filter system of Claim 10, wherein the media filter pad comprises charcoal.

12. A method of filtering an aquarium comprising:

collecting water from the aquarium;

directing said water to at least one drip drawer in a biological chamber wherein the drip drawer comprises a plurality of bores for distributing water evenly over biological media; and

distributing said water substantially evenly over said biological media in the biological chamber.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising returning said water from the biological media to the aquarium.

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising directing said water to a second drip drawer.

15. A method of filtering an aquarium comprising:

collecting water from a protein skimmer; and

diverting at least a portion of said water back to the protein skimmer prior to being returned to the aquarium.

16. The method of Claim 15, wherein water from the protein skimmer is diverted and passed through the protein skimmer a plurality of times before being directed to the aquarium.